



**MINUTES OF
RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION
MEETING OF APRIL 10, 2008**

2226 Santa Clara Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501
(510) 747-7529

DATE: Thursday, April 10, 2008
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Room 360, City Hall, Santa Clara Avenue and Oak Street, Alameda, CA 94501

1. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Terri Ogden, Vice Chair Joe Restagno, Commissioners Michael Cooper, Jo Kahuanui, Bill Sonneman

Staff: Dale Lillard, Director
John McDonald, Park Manager (PM)
Jackie Krause, Senior Services Manager (SSM)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of March 13, 2008 Recreation and Park Commission Meeting.

M/S/C SONNEMAN/COOPER (approved)

“That the Minutes of March 13, 2008 Recreation and Park Commission Meeting are approved.”

Approved (3): Cooper, Kahuanui, Sonneman
Abstained (2): Ogden, Restagno

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, AGENDA

(Any person may address the Commission in regard to any matter over which the Commission has jurisdiction or of which it may take cognizance that is not on the agenda.)

None

4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- Request from St. Joseph Notre Dame High School to Install Batting Cage at Alameda Point Multipurpose Field (agenda item 5.B.)

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Alameda High School's Request to Use Lincoln Park for Baseball Playoffs – (Discussion/Action Item)

Director Lillard stated that this item was put on the Recreation and Park Commission agenda per their request. There were numerous representatives from Alameda High School in attendance to request using Lincoln Park for the North Coast Section Play Offs in the event that they qualify. Coach Ken Arnerich addressed the Commission.

Chair Ogden asked Coach Arnerich when they would find out if they go to finals or not. Coach Arnerich stated that they would find out at the North Coast Meeting on Sunday, May 19, 2008. Director Lillard asked if at the most there would be two games hosted. Coach Arnerich stated that it could be three.

Lil Arnerich stated that it was his understanding that this item was put on the Commission agenda per their request. Mr. Arnerich asked for what purpose. Commissioner Sonneman stated that last year he was working at the AUSD Office and received complaint calls regarding the game at Lincoln Park. Mr. Sonneman stated that now that he is a Commissioner, he felt that the City should prepare if games are played at that site. Commissioner Sonneman wanted to be prepared and alleviate any issues that there may be this year.

Commissioner Kahuanui stated that because Lincoln Park is a public park, the Recreation and Park Department holds programs in the park at the same time, and the pool is also being used, and people who use the park have no idea that the event is going on. The Commission wanted to see how the groups could work together to eliminate any problems that may occur.

Coach Arnerich stated that last year arrangements were made with the pool group. AHS set up a gate at the Fernside driveway and a gate was set up at the High Street side. Patrons did not have to pay to watch the game until they got to the bleachers. So from the High Street side there was access to the park and recreation center. As far as people walking through the park, the people that were manning the gates were told that if people complained about getting through the park they were to just let them go through for free. The money collected was for North Coast not Alameda High School.

Mr. Lil Arnerich stated that arrangements were made with the Swimming Pool Association, the Recreation & Park Department, and anyone coming into the park from High Street could use the park. No one was denied entry into the park.

Also, Mr. Lil Arnerich stated that he checked with Director Lillard regarding any complaints received and there were no complaints received at the Recreation & Park Department. Mr. Arnerich stated that he also checked with Ardella Dailey, AUSD Superintendent, and Ms. Dailey stated that she was not aware of any complaints.

Mr. Arnerich stated that we live in an urban area and do not have the luxury like the valley where we have a lot of room to accommodate everyone. We do the very, very best that we can.

Commissioner Sonneman stated again that he brought the issue up so that the group could be proactive and make sure that everyone is informed about the event.

Commissioner Kahuanui stated that the Commission is trying to practice due diligence and make sure that things go smoothly. For instance, when graduation is held there is inconvenience to neighbors, but it is scheduled a year in advance and everyone knows when the event will be held. Right now we are talking about an event (North Coast Championships) that you will not know about until two days before it happens.

Mr. Arnerich stated that was not a true statement. Lincoln Middle School has youth teams come in from all over for tournaments and no neighbors are notified at anytime that there is an event. Commission Kahuanui stated that she is talking about the size of the event.

Commissioner Cooper stated that this issue is beginning to sound contentious and it really is not. He would like nothing better then to see AHS be in the NCS. All we want to do is make sure that things go smoothly and there are no complaints.

Coach Arnerich asked the Commission what he could do from his end from now until the event. Commissioner Sonneman suggested that the Coach announce to the public/neighbors every possible date that they have so they will know ahead of time.

Director Lillard asked for clarification (e.g., a sign in the park, etc.). The Coach is looking for specifics. Commissioner Cooper suggested informing neighbors around the block from the park by distributing fliers and also by having a sign in the park.

Commissioner Cooper stated that all the Commission is asking, is that everyone is informed about what will be going on in the park.

Mr. Rich Sherratt stated that he was at the event. We have to remember that as a community there is things that are going to happen that we cannot control at the spur of the moment. What he hears Mr. Sonneman saying is that he wants the group to be proactive in informing neighbors. Commissioner Sonneman agreed.

Chair Ogden stated that she would like the parents of the children who attend the ARPD Rap Program be notified of the event.

Commissioner Restagno asked if a park staff person could be assigned to where the tickets/funds would be sold/collected. Does Alameda provide this or does North Coast send their people? Coach Arnerich stated that North Coast gives AHS the tickets. North Coast has rules that state he must have a scorekeeper, an announcer, and must have two people at every gate.

Chair Ogden stated that as long as those assigned to the gates know to let people who are walking their dogs or want access to the park to let them through the area. Coach Arnerich stated that he did not think that it would be an issue.

Coach Arnerich stated that he can have his players come up with a flier and one day after practice he can have them walk the neighborhood and distribute them. Commissioner Kahuanui stated that it would help bring the community together, in addition to help advertise the event.

M/S/C SONNEMAN/COOPER (unanimously approved)

“That AHS have their NCS playoff games at Lincoln Park.”

Approved (5): Cooper, Kahuanui, Ogden, Restagno, Sonneman,

B. Discussion of St. Joseph Notre Dame (SJND) High School's Request to Install Batting Cage at Alameda Point Multipurpose Field – (Discussion/Action Item)

Vic Republicano and Mark Palmore, representatives from SJND High School, were present to request that they be allowed to install a batting cage at the Alameda Point Multipurpose Field.

Chair Ogden stated she was concerned about the generator noise and if there would be a problem with the gym next door. Director Lillard and PM McDonald stated that would not be a problem.

Chair Ogden asked if the area requested was big enough. PM McDonald stated yes. Director Lillard stated that the area has been measured to make sure everything would fit.

Commissioner Kahuanui asked for clarification on having approval to put a structure in the area. Director Lillard stated that staff checked with the Base Reuse Department and they stated that we could install a non-permanent (no walls, no sides) structure. For instance we would not be allowed to install a restroom or snack bar.

Director Lillard stated that if the Recreation and Park Commission approved the SJND request he will send a letter of conditions to Mr. Curry, SJND Athletic Director.

Commissioner Cooper asked about sharing the storage area. Mr. Republicano stated that they are willing to share with other non-profit groups and have them possibly share in the cost.

Commissioner Restagno asked if ARPD would need any of the storage area. Director Lillard stated no. Also, we do not want the group subletting/subleasing a part of the storage container to another outside group.

M/S/C RESTAGNO/KAHUANUI (approved)

“That the installation of the batting cage and storage container be approved. A letter from ARPD Director will be sent to SJND Athletic Director that will stipulate guidelines for installation and upkeep.”

Approved (5): Cooper, Kahuanui, Ogden, Restagno, Sonneman,

Republicano asked if Alameda High School's home field is Lincoln, since SJND High School plays their games at College of Alameda would College of Alameda then be considered SJND's home field. Director Lillard stated that there is no technical term as a “home” field. Lincoln Park just happens to be where AHS plays their home games. There is no name attached to any given field. This is due to that in any given year (depending on the demand and use) they may move to another field. As an example, for years Babe Ruth played at Krusi Park but priorities changed and participation in girl's softball increased so now girl's softball is using Krusi Park. It is not a “home” field, it is a facility that the City provides for the groups to use but it is not attached to the group nor is it a designation.

Commissioner Sonneman also stated that for instance the current coach could leave and then the new coach could decide that he wants to play at College of Alameda. Director Lillard stated that there is no official designation of “home” field for anyone.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commissioner Restagno stated that when it comes time to renovate Rittler Park he would like the fence near the Lum School playground area be raised to help eliminate foul balls going over the over-hang of the backstop and possibly hitting someone. He feels that there should be a little more over-hang on the fence.

Chair Ogden asked staff if that would be a change. PM McDonald stated that it would have to be a change. Director Lillard stated that staff will go out to the site with Ron Matthews and look at the area.

PM McDonald stated that he has been out to the renovated field in Godfrey Park and staff is reviewing possible modifications to that fence as well.

7. REPORTS FROM RECREATION COMMISSION AND RECREATION AND PARK DIRECTOR

A. Park Division

See April 9, 2008 Activity Report.

B. Recreation Division

See April 9, 2008 Activity Report.

C. Mastick Senior Center

See April 9, 2008 Activity Report.

D. Other Reports and Announcements

None.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, GENERAL

Director Lillard asked the Commission for a representative from the Commission that would like to serve on the Bike Plan Update Committee. Commissioner Cooper stated that he would serve on the Committee.

9. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

10. SET DAY FOR NEXT MEETING Thursday, May 8, 2008

11. ADJOURNMENT